

7. *Lycodon flavomaculatus* and *Lycodon striatus* were identified at the Bombay Natural History Society and some others were sent there also to confirm their identification. The *Typhlops* were killed in my bungalow and in the hospital.

8. The Russell's Viper was not known as occurring here to the present European Officers in the station. One beautiful specimen with black hollow rings on the back, was brought to me killed in the fodder stacked for Municipal bullocks on May 26, 1926. On July 19, 1926, a baby Russell's Viper 10" long was seen and killed at about 8 p.m. in the verandah of the Officers' club where table-tennis is played. It was expected that the parent would be somewhere near. It was a curious coincidence that a big Russell's Viper (female) was killed in the open place in front of the District Judge's Bungalow near the club on October 3, 1926, and the District Judge, Mr. Broomfield, I.C.S., told me that an exactly similar snake was killed in his bungalow compound on October 10, 1926. This probably was the male. The bungalow has a cactus hedge round it.

9. Two other species should be added as occurring in Sholapur. These were found in January this year. In the big Sankrant Fair held here, there was a local snake charmer exhibiting snakes. He had 2 specimens of *Dryophis mycterizans* which were seen by me on January 19, 1927. He said he caught them in a field about 4 miles from here. The other is an *Echis carinata* (Phoorsa) which was seen and killed in the hospital verandah at 8 p.m., on January 25, 1927. It was very clearly marked specimen 16 inches long and looked fresh as if it had recently cast its skin.

SHOLAPUR,  
February 21, 1927.

K. G. GHARPUREY, I.M.S.,  
Lt.-Col.

[Lt.-Col. Gharpurey makes no mention of a saw-scaled viper (*Echis carinata*) obtained by his collector in the Sholapur District and brought down to Bombay. Our recollections of it are still very vivid as we took it out of the bag which it shared with other perfectly innocuous snakes! Eds.]

#### XXXII.—LARGE BROOD OF EGGS OF THE CHECKERED WATER SNAKE (*NERODIA PISCATOR*)

An example of the Checkered Water Snake (*Nerodia piscator*) was sent to us on March 22, by Lt.-Col. F. P. Mackie, I.M.S., of the Haffkine Institute, Bombay. The snake shortly after her capture laid 88 eggs. The eggs were not free but adhered to each other in a mass by means of a sticky fluid apparently secreted by the oviducts of the parent.

This is possibly the largest number of eggs in one brood recorded of this species. The eggs are soft shelled cream white—not glossy—and the average measurement is  $1\frac{1}{10}'' \times \frac{7}{10}''$ .

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
April 11, 1927.

S. H. PRATER.

#### XXXIII.—NOTES ON THE LIFE AND HABITS OF THE COMMON CARPENTER BEE (*XYLOCOPA AMETHYSTINA*)

The following notes were made on this small Carpenter Bee (20 mm. in length) in the Palni Hills (7,000–8,000') of Southern India.

During the months November–January a few males, sex recognizable on account of yellow clypeus, were seen about in the broken and scattered rhododendron outside the pine plantations along the top of the steep southern escarpment. No females were seen and no nests looked for.

In February–March females were seen cutting out passages in the rhododendrons. Dry branches from 1 to 2 inches in thickness were selected.

The opening is as a rule on the lower or sheltered side of the branch and the burrow first made downwards. Edward Step, F.L.S., has stated that a second entrance or rather exit, is made at the lower end, but this is not the case with *Xylocopa amethystina* which has a much more curious arrangement to which I shall return.